IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Christophe BERTEZ et al.

Serial No. (unknown)

Filed herewith

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THE LASER CUTTING OF STAINLESS STEEL, COATED STEEL, ALUMINUM OR ALUMINUM ALLOYS WITH A BIFOCAL OPTICAL COMPONENT 7.6. 7.3-0/

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 3, lines 1 and 2, change "either of claims 1 and 2" to --claim 1--.

Claim 4, line 1, change "one of claims 1 to 3" to --claim 1--.

Claim 5, line 1, change "one of claims 1 to 4" to --claim 1--.

Claim 6, line 1, change "one of claims 1 to 5" to --claim 1--.

Claim 7, line 1, change "one of claims 1 to 6" to --claim 1--.

Claim 8, line 1, change "one of claims 1 to 7" to --claim 1--.

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Claim 9, line 1, change "one of claims 1 to 8" to --claim 1--.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

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January 8, 2001